GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – BC Welfare Department – Departmental proceedings under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 against Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram - Article of Charges – Orders – Issued.

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE (D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.124

Dated:28 -03-2023.
Read the following:

From the DG(V&E. & ENFT.), Vijayawada, Vigilance report No.54(C.No.5531 /V&E/Sec-II/D2/2020), Dt.23.12.2021.

-:0:-

ORDER:

It is proposed to hold an inquiry against Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram, in accordance with the procedure laid down in rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of article of charge (Annexure-I and II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom, the article of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram is directed to submit her written statement of defence within (10) days of the receipt of this order.

4. Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those article of charges as are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram is further informed that if she does not submit her Written Statement of Defence on or before the date specified in para-3 above or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 or the order/directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiry Authority may hold the inquiry against her ex-parte, based on the material available on record.

6. Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with these proceedings it will be presumed that Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram, is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for violation of rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules,1964.

7. The receipt of this G.O. shall be acknowledged forthwith.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G JAYALAKSHMI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram "through" the Director of BC Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada.

(P.T.O)

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Copy to:
The Director of BC Welfare, A.P., Vijayawada. (with a request to serve and return the dated acknowledged served copy)
The Secretary, APVC., A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
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[Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.124, BCW(D) Dept., Dt:28.03.2023]

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE AGAINST SMT. KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DBCWO, VIZIANAGARAM :-

That Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram, has failed to discharge her duties and responsibilities of sanction, release the Scholarship Claims, generate the Bill and to submit the same to the District Treasury via Digital Signature Key, without conducting physical verification of attendance of Post Metric scholarships at least (5)% random sample of documents related to scholarships against details entered in the JnanaBhumi, as per G.O.Ms.No.45 Social Welfare (Edn.2) Department, dt.09.06.2017.

By her above mentioned act, Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram, failed to discharge her duties, not shown devotion to duty and exhibited conduct unbecoming of a Government Servant & thereby contravened Rules, 3(1) and 3(2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

G JAYALAKSHMI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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[Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.124, BCW(D) Dept., Dt:28.03.2023]

ANNEXURE –II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DBCWO, VIZIANAGARAM :-

The Director General(V&E) & E.O. Pri Secretary to Government, AP, vide Vigilance report No.54(C.No.5531 /V&E/Sec-II/D2/2020), Dt.23.12.2021, has stated that, the V&E Department has conducted surprise check on various PG Colleges in the entire state on random basis to probe on non performing/ unavailable PG courses offered in Pvt. Professional Higher Educational Institutions in AP and found certain irregularities & procedural lapses in sanctioning, releasing the Post Metric scholarships claims; and Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram, has failed to discharge her duties and responsibilities of sanction, release the Scholarship Claims, generate the Bill and to submit the same to the District Treasury via Digital Signature Key, without conducting physical verification of attendance of Post Metric scholarships at least (5)% random sample of documents related to scholarships against details entered in the JnanaBhumi, as per G.O.Ms.No.45 Social Welfare (Edn.2) Department, dt.09.06.2017.

Thus, Smt. Khushbu Kothari, the then DBCWO, Vizianagaram has failed to discharge her duties, not shown devotion to duty and exhibited conduct unbecoming of a Government Servant & thereby contravened Rules, 3(1) and 3(2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Hence, the charge.

G JAYALAKSHMI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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[Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.124, BCW(D) Dept., Dt:28.03.2023]

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DBCWO, VIZIANAGARAM ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED:

1. From the DG(V&E. & ENFT.), Vijayawada, Vigilance report No.54(C.No.5531 /V&E/Sec-II/D2/2020), Dt.23.12.2021.
2. G.O.Ms.No.45 Social Welfare (Edn.2) Department, dt.09.06.2017

G JAYALAKSHMI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSESS BY WHOM THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT. KHUSHBU KOTHARI, THE THEN DBCWO, VIZIANAGARAM ARE PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED:

-NIL-

G JAYALAKSHMI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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